

Historical Walking Tours of Monaghan Town

These popular tours are available with prior booking and weather permitting



- Guided Tours by prior arrangement.
- It is advisable for schools or large groups to pre-book.

If you wish to book a tour or enquire about an exhibition, event or workshop please contact us at **047 82928** or by email: comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

All exhibitions and events will be advertised in the local press, or if you require further information check out Monaghan County Council Website at www.monaghan.ie/museum/ or www.bordermuseums.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday - 12pm – 5pm

ADMISSION FREE

We would value **your comments** about this newsletter and would appreciate **any suggestions** for future editions. Email Eileen at emckenna2@monaghancoco.ie or telephone the **museum**

MULTICULTURAL DAYS 2011

The theme we decided on for this year, following meetings with the teachers, was **archaeology in county Monaghan.**

This theme was selected for several reasons.

- County Monaghan has a rich archaeological heritage represented in the National Museum (Kildare Street) by finds such as the Tydavnet Sun Discs, the Clones Dress Fastener and the Altertate Cauldron to name but a few.
- Monaghan County Museum has an extremely good Handling Collection comprising original and replica artefacts that may be loaned out (free of charge) to interested groups and schools throughout the county.
- The current exhibition in the museum, Hidden Heritage, highlights aspects of archaeology in the county.
- Archaeology is an integral strand of the school curricula at primary and secondary level.
- Archaeology is the study of how people lived in the past by examining the physical remains they have left behind. This is relevant to all cultures and nationalities, young and old.
- During the presentations we examine how historians and archaeologists work, how different materials decay, we look at chronology in timeline form and try out wearing and using the artefacts from the Handling Collection.
- Another important aspect of these days is emphasising the importance of what may still be found in the future and which will add to the story of our county.



Some children practicing their bodhran skills celebrating Multicultural Day

HERITAGE DAY

Following on from last year's very successful event, we are now planning Heritage Day 2011.

Like last year the venue will be Gavan Duffy Park on Wednesday 24th August and there will be a full list of crafts showcased. Robert Steinke Master Saddler will be there as will Johnny Fee with his very popular threshing and Seamus Keenan from Sam Moore's Open Farm. There will be face painting, balloon modelling, weaving, wood turning and lots more. So come along and enjoy a unique family day out!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUTUMN LECTURES

Monaghan County Museum has arranged the following lectures for the autumn:

Davina Lynch	The milliner's craft [Monday 19th Sept at 2.00pm]
Malachy Clerkin	Sporting Legends of Co. Monaghan. [Monday 26th Sept at 2.00pm]
Brendan Scott	The 1641 Rebellion [Monday 21st Nov at 2.00pm]
Dr Terence Dooley	Revolution in Monaghan, 1916 - 1923 [Date to be confirmed]
Dr William Roulston	English and Scottish Settlements in Co. Monaghan 1600 - 1740 [Date to be confirmed]
Dr Fearghal McGarry	The Easter Rising of 1916 [Date to be confirmed]
Brian Mac Donald	The famine in Co. Monaghan [Date to be confirmed]

newsletter

Monaghan County Council Museum



HIDDEN HERITAGE EXHIBITION

The launch of the Hidden Heritage exhibition was the culmination of around eighteen months work by four community groups who undertook the task of uncovering and displaying the hidden history of their local areas.



The project, which was part financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund through the Peace III Programme and funded through Monaghan Peace III Partnership, was a joint collaboration between Monaghan County Museum and Monaghan Library Service.

The four community groups, from Latton, Clones, Magheraclone and Tydavnet, were charged with discovering the hidden heritage and history of their local areas. In this endeavour they were guided by staff members from both the library and museum who, in addition to introducing the groups to the records and collections of both institutions, organised a number of appropriate workshops. Digital photography, creative writing and genealogical research courses were offered as was training in interviewing and recording techniques. Tours to, and of, the National Museum, National Library, the Ulster Museum and the Linenhall Library were undertaken. The result of all of the training can be seen in the audio visual exhibition which was launched in the museum gallery on Wednesday, 13th April by Dr Paddy Duffy, formerly of NUI, Maynooth.

At the launch the capacity crowd heard Liam Bradley, curator, praising the 'quality of the project which brought communities together through a shared interest in local heritage'. 'It had', he said, 'opened up the wide array of services available from both the museum and library to new audiences'. In her speech, Deirdriu McQuaid, Acting Senior Executive Librarian, acknowledged 'the help and funding given to the project by Monaghan Peace III Partnership'. She also noted the special relationship between the library and museum which she described as being unusual within the sphere of local authorities. Acting County Manager, David Fallon, complimented the staffs of both the museum and library for their 'commitment and professionalism in bringing this project to fruition', while Mayor, Jackie Crowe noted the 'very positive effect on the communities involved as well as being a success in building cross community relations.' The exhibition details the 'hidden heritage' uncovered by the participating groups on large information panels and recorded interviews can be listened to at four listening posts. Additional material in folder form is available for perusal on a side table and a small exhibition of artefacts from the four areas complements the exhibition.

A book *Hidden Heritage – Uncovering Your Own Local History* has been produced and is available free from the museum. It will remain both as a reminder of this project and as a useful resource for future local historians.

The exhibition remains in place until the end of the year. For information on workshops, events or lectures associated with this exhibition contact the museum.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT DETAILS
 1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan
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 comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

www.monaghan.ie/museum/
www.bordermuseums.ie

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Hidden Heritage Book

Still available from Monaghan County Museum and Library



Speakers at the Launch of the Hidden Heritage including...

Deirdriú McQuaid, Paddy Duffy, David Fallon, Jackie Crowe, Liam Bradley and Karen McCague



FRIENDS OF MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM VISIT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE

The Friends of Monaghan County Museum recently visited Hillsborough Castle and its beautiful gardens.

The group undertook a guided tour of the Castle, which is in fact a Georgian Mansion built in 1760 by William or Wills Hill, then Earl of Hillsborough and later to become the first Marquis of Downshire. The building was remodelled in the mid 19th century to its present form. The Friends learned the history of some of the castle's most prominent rooms including the state drawing room where the Anglo Irish Agreement was signed in 1985 by Margaret Thatcher and Garrett Fitzgerald. The castle is the headquarters of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and is the official residence of the Queen when she visits.

Following the tour of the castle, the group were treated to a tour of the world famous gardens at Hillsborough by the head gardener. Among some the highlights there was the largest Rhododendron bush in Europe, the second largest in the world, which is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. They also viewed the stunning Yew Tree Walk that was originally the main highway through the town.

All those present expressed their enjoyment of the day and looked forward to further events organised by the Friends' Committee. The Friends organisation is now actively seeking new members and is planning more tours to other significant historical places in the future. If you wish to join the Friends, please contact the museum and they will send you on a copy of the application form.

SNIPPET FROM OUR ARCHIVE

One of my favourite jobs in the museum is transcribing old documents, especially letters. I find the content, style and tone interesting and the language used fascinating.

The following is a letter that I worked on recently. It is dated October 18th 1823 and is addressed to The Right Revd the Lord Bishop of Clogher, Stephen's Green, Dublin and there is a wealth of information in it. It also raises some questions, why was the bishop living in Dublin, why did Mr Pinching's predecessor not forward the books and why was the bishop not actively seeking them?

My Lord,

Enclosed are the returns of the tithes of the parish of Carrickmacross 1815 & 1816 according to my books and also for the years 1817 - 18 - 19 - 20 - 21 according to the books of the impropiator as in consequence of Mr Heatly not having given up the books for the years in which he was sequestrator. I have not been able to make an accurate return of the amount of the whole year - the parishioners are willing (as I understand) to compound for 700 £ per ann in lieu of the vicarial and for 350 £ per ann in lieu of the impropiate tithes which composition should it meet with your Lordship's approbation I would gladly accept. Our vestry is to take place on Saturday 25th inst: and if your lordship would condescend to signify your assent previous to that day the commutation will take place for the insuing [sic] year.

The letter was signed - I have the honor [sic] to be My Lord with the utmost respect your Lordship's obliged and obedient humble servant, Mr Pinching.

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CONSERVATION OF ESTATE MAPS

Recently, the museum successfully applied to the Department of Arts, Sports, Culture and Tourism for grant aid to help conserve three books of estate maps which are held in the collection. One of those books contained the Castleshane Maps. Castleshane was the seat of the Lucas family from the 1650s and by the 19th century comprised almost 10,000 acres making the estate one of the ten largest in the county.

The map album contains the results of surveys undertaken in the years 1838, 1869 and 1870. A typical map shows a townland with a reference table containing a key to the tenants, the type and quality of the holding (arable, pasture etc.) and acreage, both statute and plantation.

The 1869 survey covers the main part of the Castleshane Estate, including the village and demesne. The surveyor, Robert Manning, who was a civil engineer for the Board of Works, is better known for his interest in hydrology, specifically the flow of water in waterways and drainage systems. A number of the maps were surveyed in 1838 by Brassington and Gale of Dublin, while in 1870 outlying holdings were surveyed by V.H. Smith. Also included are several land transfer maps of different areas.

Some of the features shown on the Castleshane maps are:

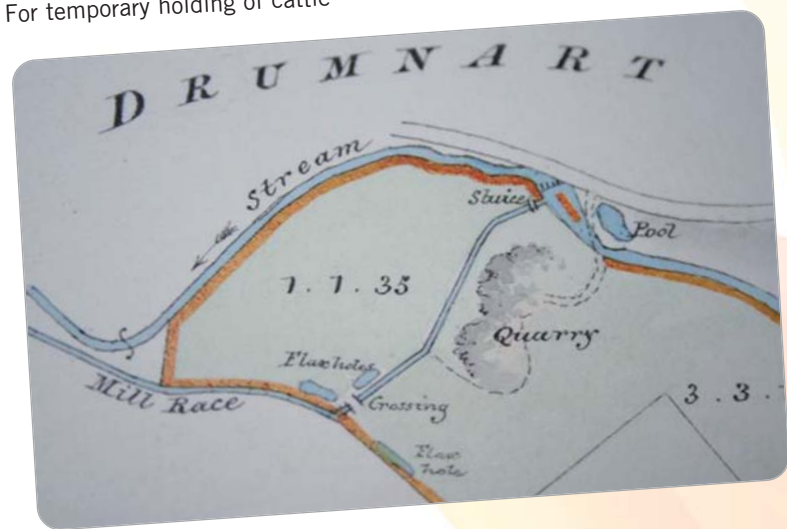
- Marl Holes** Marl is a naturally occurring mixture of clays and lime (calcium carbonate). It is alkaline and was used as a conditioner for acidic soils.
- Lime Kilns** Quicklime has been used for centuries for building and other purposes. It is manufactured by burning limestone (calcium carbonate). Lime kilns were a common feature of the landscape before modern manufacturing techniques and improved transport made large scale production feasible.
- Flax Holes** Flax was grown extensively in County Monaghan into the early 20th century. The flax had to be immersed in water in dams which were known as flax holes for a number of weeks to soften the outer fibres so it could eventually be processed into linen thread.
- Mills** Streams and rivers provided power
- Meeting Houses** Non Conformist term for a place of worship, usually Presbyterian
- Hillforts/Danes' Forts** There are many hilltop ringforts in the area, and in the 1838 maps they are marked as Danes' Forts reflecting the erroneous folk tradition that these features had been built as fortifications by Norse invaders.
- Ozieries** A place where osiers are grown. Osiers, or oziers, are a type of willow which was used for basket making, fish traps, wattle and daub etc
- Pounds** For temporary holding of cattle



New Acquisition..

Famine Pot

This famine pot which was recently donated to the museum by Mr Vincent Smith, is believed to have been used in Clones Workhouse. Mr Smith's grandfather bought the item at an auction around 1900. The museum already has a large famine pot but this example is a very welcome and very important addition to the collection. Both pots will feature in an exhibition in Clones Library in early September to mark this year's National Famine Commemoration. President Mary McAleese is expected to attend the event on September 10th.



This image from the Castleshane Book of Maps shows one of the townlands that made up the estate. Some of the features shown are possibly no longer there

Also marked are, churches, chapels, police stations, dispensaries, forges, quarries, gravel pits, ruins, roads, railways, bridges, rivers, ponds, fish ponds, waterfalls, wells, millponds, millraces, sluices making the maps an extremely importance local history reference. A future article will focus on estate maps in general and their conservation.